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ABSTRACT

From showing readers the longest words in common usage (22 letters--counterrevolutionaries, deinstitutionalization), to providing readers with a list of words in which all 5 vowels must appear in alphabetical order (abstemious, facetious), to discovering the name in an American phone book where the most letters of the alphabet are used without repetition (Melvin Schwarzkopf), this book encompasses a study of letterplay. The collection of games and puzzles that has stumped word lovers for decades includes an array of alphabetical mind-benders and conundrums. The intricacies of letterplay are illustrated with hundreds of examples: acrostics, palindromes, anagrams, lipograms, word squares, homonyms, word worms, and isograms. Additionally, the book reveals how computers have been used effectively to investigate complex word problems with seemingly impossible solutions. Using diagrams and illustrations, the book organizes the topic of letterplay, describing what has been found, and what has not, introducing readers to material previously unpublished in book form. (NKA)

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